



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 42

TO: Helen Bottcher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)

DATE: January 10, 2010

FILE NO: 1-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 42 Month Ending December 2009

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Homogenization of large-size fish (i.e., >30 centimeters) as discussed and agreed is complete¹, and analytical testing is ongoing. At the time of writing, compositing activities associated with the small- and medium-sized fish have not started. Teck will continue to work with EPA in prioritizing and finalizing the small- and medium-size fish composites so as to meet the needs of both the ecological and the human health risk assessments.

Validated beach sediment data² was provided in December and as requested, Teck will make available the additional materials (e.g., data validation reports) in the near future. Laboratory analyses on surface water samples are ongoing. It is anticipated that validated surface water data will be made available in January 2010.

Review comments are pending for the draft Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) work plan (July 2009). During the next several months, Teck will continue to work on developing technical deliverables that will facilitate 2010 field sampling efforts as outlined within the draft BERA work plan (e.g., surface soil sampling, and white sturgeon work based on EPA's level-of-effort paper, and sediment sampling). Teck will also review and comment on the draft sampling and analysis plan for the recreational use survey.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.

¹ Homogenization of large fish for which samples did not meet the minimum number as outlined with the Quality Assurance project Plan are delayed until the interim data is reviewed with EPA.

² Data for Black Sand Beach and the Upper Columbia R.V. Park are available for activities associated with the 2009 field sampling effort.